

For immediate release
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OSU President Holbrook and Mayor Coleman Select Site and Architect for New Neighborhood Policing Center

(Columbus) Keeping their promise to invest in neighborhood safety for residents and students in the Ohio State University District, Mayor Michael B. Coleman and OSU President Karen A. Holbrook today announced the location and architect for a new Neighborhood Policing Center. The joint safety office will house police officers at the location that formerly contained multiple residential units at 236-246 E. 11th Avenue. The Mayor will forward legislation for City Council's consideration on Monday, December 12th, to hire eS Architecture and Development, Inc., to design the facility.

"This new Neighborhood Policing Center site will not only increase safety and the visibility of Police Officers, but also serve as a common ground where OSU and Columbus Officers can work with community members hand-in-hand on crime prevention and safety issues," said Mayor Coleman.

The 16,000-square-foot facility, jointly funded by Ohio State University and the City of Columbus, will serve as a unique, innovative safety center, housing Columbus Police, OSU Police, a Community Crime Patrol office and a Neighborhood Pride Center.

"I am extremely pleased that we have now reached this important stage for our students and residents of the University District," Holbrook said. "The presence and operation of a Neighborhood Policing Center, coupled with many existing safety efforts supported by Off-Campus Student Services and the Community Crime Patrol, will greatly enhance the level of safety and quality of life for Ohio State students who live off-campus."

Columbus City Council will consider the ordinance to hire eS Architecture and Development, Inc. to design the center for \$375,000. The firm will be responsible for design and construction administration. Columbus Police will move 56 officers to the new site from the Substation for Precinct 4 at Arcadia and Deming Avenues, on the northern edge of the University District. This location currently also houses Fire Station #13, which will remain.

“We welcome the presence of OSU and the Columbus Police Department in our community. In the short-term, we look forward to helping design a community-friendly space and, in the long-term, enhancing city, university, community partnerships,” said Robert Caldwell, president of the Weinland Park Civic Association.

The University and City each committed \$1.5 million to the project in October 2004 in a Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the Columbus Department of Public Safety and OSU. Following the needs assessment report, the projected cost was revised to \$3.8 million or an additional \$400,000 per partner to meet space and parking requirements.

The City and OSU will seek ongoing input on the design of the project from the community including area residents, neighborhood groups, university businesses and student government organizations, including the Community Ambassadors.

The City is pursuing plans to add parking spaces by purchasing the parcel at the northeast corner of East 11th Avenue and Summit Avenue to serve the policing center. The plan includes a total of 30 additional parking spaces.

The design stage of the Neighborhood Policing Center is expected to be complete in September 2006 with a groundbreaking in early 2007.

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